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Dated: June 9, 2006

Signature:

*Susan M. Dillon*  
(Susan Dillon)

Docket No.: 59526(47992)  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Robert Blumenthal et al.

Application No.: National Phase of  
PCT/US04/41512

Confirmation No.: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

For: METHODS FOR INHIBITING HIV AND  
OTHER VIRAL INFECTIONS BY  
MODULATING CERAMIDE METABOLISM

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.